

# Advice to Aspiring Ministers

By Pastor Jack Cunningham

You feel like God has called you to the ministry. You want to build on a solid foundation. You want to succeed. You want to have an effective tool in the hands of God. Where do you start?

## **First, make sure God gets the glory.**

I pray the same prayer every day of my life—“God I want you to get glory out of my life today.” Make sure that your actions, accomplishments, words, life, and ministry all bring Him glory.

## **Get close to your pastor.**

Be an Elisha. Invite your pastor to direct your ministry. Listen to his advice.

## **Dedicate yourself to the Word of God.**

Love the Word of God. Study the Word of God. Read the Word of God every day (don't ever go to bed without reading the Word if you haven't read it during the day).

As a minister, you will be a student of Scripture for the rest of your life. Fall in love with God's Word.

## **Love the lost.**

When you love the lost you are loving who God loves. “For God so loved the world.”

From the very beginning of your ministry become consumed with a love for the lost and for the work of missions. It's more important that you know how to reach the lost than it is to know how to preach.

## **Depend on the Holy Ghost.**

Be dependent upon the Holy Ghost in all you attempt—sermon preparation, prayer, preaching, and all ministry endeavors must be governed by the Spirit.

### **Build your library.**

Whether on-line or printed books; build your library. Be a reader. All great leaders are readers.

Develop a biblically and doctrinally sound library.

For Christmas and birthdays, make a book wish list and distribute to your family and friends.

### **Spiritual discipline.**

Practice spiritual disciplines. Don't ever neglect your walk with God. Ministry is the greatest and highest calling in the world; it is also the toughest. Therefore, it is important that you keep watch over your own soul.

Don't get "big-headed." There is a tendency for young ministers to become overly confident and prideful. Stay away from such things.

Stay alert and on guard at all times for the subtle ways of the enemy to knock you off your feet. Ministers still sin and still endure temptation. Don't think you are immune lest you are caught off guard.

### **Good habits.**

Practice good ministry habits. Day in and day out.

- Pray, pray, pray, and then pray some more.
- Listen to good preaching of good preachers.
- Surround yourself with like-minded friends.
- Love people.
- Do not be consumed or focused on new trends or fads.